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EDITORIAL NOTES.

What is known in England as the insurance bill, a measure providing for the insurance of all wage-earners of a certain class and for their medical attendance in case of injury, etc., has met with a distinct setback. It undertook to legislate the amount of compensation that should be paid to the physician for his services. It raised a storm of protest from the members of the British Medical Association who considered that the compensation fixed by the bill was totally inadequate. It certainly is "contract practice" by wholesale, and the compensation for that sort of practice is usually not large. Something over 27,000 physicians of Great Britain have agreed to refuse the compensation offered in the act and to do no work whatever for the government under it. This action, which is said to have been made official at a special meeting of the British Medical Association July 23rd, of course makes the act a dead letter. The whole incident is, however, very instructive. The original passage of Mr. George's insurance bill, which was called extreme socialism, was but an indication of what many people have said would some day come to pass; that the state would take over the medical care of the people. The refusal of physicians to accept what they consider an *insufficient* compensation does not contradict the probable truth of the assumption; quite the reverse; it indicates that the state will do so under proper conditions.

All over the world there seems to be a wave of fanatical attack upon medical science that has shown more distinctly in the United States, and particularly in the West, than elsewhere. It is very difficult to understand. Of course certain elements of this movement in opposition to scientific medicine are plain enough; the eddyites, the dishonest manufacturing element behind the "league for medical freedom," and the like. But they do not explain it satisfactorily; they do not explain, for example, the remarkable case of the libel action against Dr. Bashford, in England, which was referred to editorially in the August issue of the JOURNAL. They do not explain the increasing number of antivaccination societies and of antivivisection societies. They do not explain why honest, educated and presumably sane people will be carried away into these waste places of the ignorant. The editor of New York *Life* is a well educated and presumably sane man, and yet we all know the anti-everything-about-progressive-medicine attitude that *Life* takes. Medicine has passed out of the fetish stage of existence, in the public mind; perhaps the average person likes the fetish thing and so has gone to the place where he can get it—the eddyite and the various other freak cults. It may be that it is because the old medicine is gone and the new, scientific medicine, the people have not yet learned about; they have not become convinced that science has really taken the place of the fetish. But even so, the situation is alarming and not at all easy to understand.

Why do so many physicians want to come to California? A year or two ago, when the matter was looked into, it was found that there was one doctor to about every 400 of population; and several hundred doctors have come in since then. For the August 1912 examination of the State Board of Medical Examiners, 202 applications had been received up to the time when the books close under the law, two weeks before the examination. Of these 194 had filed satisfactory credentials and 8 were pending investigation at the time of writing; we may safely say that at least 200 will take the August examination. If the average number pass, we will have 150 or more newly licensed physicians in an already over-supplied state. Why is it? Moreover, the Governor has said—or at least he is quoted as having said—that he was anxious to have the next legislature pass a very liberal reciprocity amendment to the present law regulating the practice of medicine; an amendment that would permit any physician licensed in any other state to come to California and practice. That would mean no medical law whatever, practically, for any one with a diploma can get a license in some state and then come here and the law would permit him to practice upon an ignorant public, no matter how poorly qualified he might be. It is commonly said that the legislature which is to convene in January will pass any law the

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